

Scottish CND Local Elections Manifesto

The Scottish Local Elections are just around the corner - a pivotal time to shine the spotlight on the issue of nuclear disarmament.

Why?

Because, contrary to popular belief, disarmament is a local issue as well as a national one. This is our chance to draw local candidates and local voters into a national conversation.

Local authorities can take many practical steps to express Scottish opposition to nuclear weapons. So, we invite you to unite with us in raising awareness of the following:

1 The Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons

The TPNW came into force on 22nd January 2021. The first meeting of the signatory states will take place in June. If Scotland could join this treaty, the UK would be forced to disarm its nuclear weapons.

Local authorities can influence this by passing a resolution to support the International Campaign for the Abolition of Nuclear Weapons' (ICAN) [Cities Appeal](#).

Nuclear weapons require huge investment to produce but they can also generate massive profits. Since the TPNW was adopted, many financial institutions now exclude nuclear weapons production.

We ask all local authorities to pass resolutions to divest public funds - such as their pension funds - from all industries related to nuclear weapons. More information on the investment of public funds in the arms industry can be found [here](#).

But, without your action, this will be a slow process. You can make a tangible difference by bringing this to the attention of your candidates. We encourage you to ask them the following questions:

- a) If elected, will you move a resolution to join other [Scottish local authorities](#) in the ICAN **Cities Appeal** and support the Treaty for the Nonproliferation of Nuclear Weapons?

b) If elected, will you work to ensure that Council divests any pension and other funds away from nuclear weapons/arms trading/fossil fuels? [Scotland's Investment in the Arms Trade](#)

You can find the name of your local candidates by visiting the website of your local authority.

2 The Danger of Nuclear Weapons

It has been said that prevention is better than a cure - and this is clearly the case in the context of nuclear weapons. The truth is, there really is no cure for the catastrophic damage caused by nuclear weapons.

The fact that a nuclear convoy passes by civilians' homes around once every 6 weeks is evidence that preventative measures against nuclear disaster are not being taken.

What you can do:

You can ask your candidate and your local authority to take formal steps to highlight the risks as determined in [Unready Scotland](#).

Be sure to give candidates a copy or send them the link!

3 The Cost of Nuclear Weapons

You may be worried about the high cost of living at the moment - many are.

All the while, nuclear-armed states squander **billions** on these weapons and the infrastructure they need to deploy them.

What you can do:

Scotland can highlight opportunities lost and demand an end to this waste of resources. You can send candidates [information on how Scotland's resources can be better used](#).

Key Dates:

April 19th 2022 - Deadline to register to vote

May 5th 2022 - Local Elections Day

Scottish Local Authorities who have already signed up to the ICAN Cities Appeal

City of Edinburgh Council

East Ayrshire Council

Fife Council

Glasgow City Council

Midlothian Council

Renfrewshire Council

West Dunbartonshire Council